



Community-based advocacies toward STRUCTURAL CHANGE

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SENTRO NG ALTERNATIBONG LINGAP PANLEGAL

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SALIGAN

The results of the national and local elections created the most significant change for 2022. The new administration had no clear agenda for the marginalized, disadvantaged, and exploited sectors (MDEs), and SALIGAN and its partners lost their champions in Congress. By the time the new administration laid down its priorities during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) in July, it unfortunately excluded most of the agenda of the MDEs. The BARMM elections was also postponed, giving more time for the BTC to set up laws and systems in the BARMM which was stayed by the pandemic. The effectivity of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling also posed a challenge for local governments to implement fully devolved functions. There were progressive laws that were approved, such as the Anti-OSEAC, the E-ATIP, and the amendment to the anti-rape law which increased the age of sexual consent. The Philippine Supreme Court and the legal profession in general became more open to the concept of legal empowerment of the MDEs.

COVID-19 restrictions were eased in 2022. SALIGAN was able to gradually shift to implementing its programs in person, which is more effective than the online mode. However, the economic impact of the pandemic resulted in higher costs for the conduct of these activities. Be that as it may, SALIGAN was able to achieve its targets for 2022, which was the last year for the implementation of its 3-year strategic plan.

Enhanced access to law and legal processes

SALIGAN lawyers facilitated legal consultation sessions among 81 individuals from all over the country. While most were conducted online, some were accommodated for face-to-face legal consultations in the Bicol and Mindanao offices. The topics of the legal consultations vary, but most were on violence against women, family law, land disputes, and labor issues.



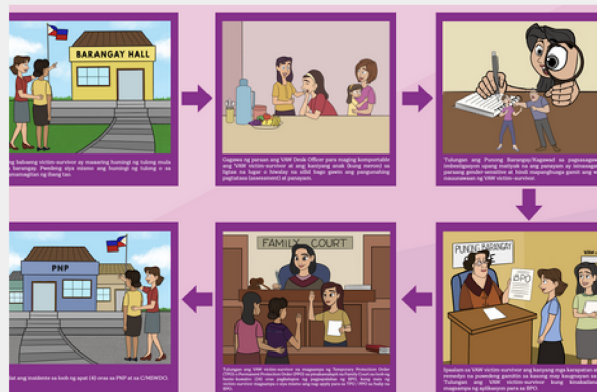
SALIGAN, in partnership with Marian Women Producers Cooperative, conducted a legal jamming with women, farmers and fisherfolk from the Municipality of Aroroy on June 22, 2022.

SALIGAN also conducted three legal jamming sessions in Payatas in Quezon City, Naga City, and Aroroy in Masbate. The legal jamming sessions responded to legal queries of 38 individuals. In 2022, SALIGAN lawyers represented the marginalized, disadvantaged, and exploited sectors in 84 cases, 8 of which commenced in 2022.

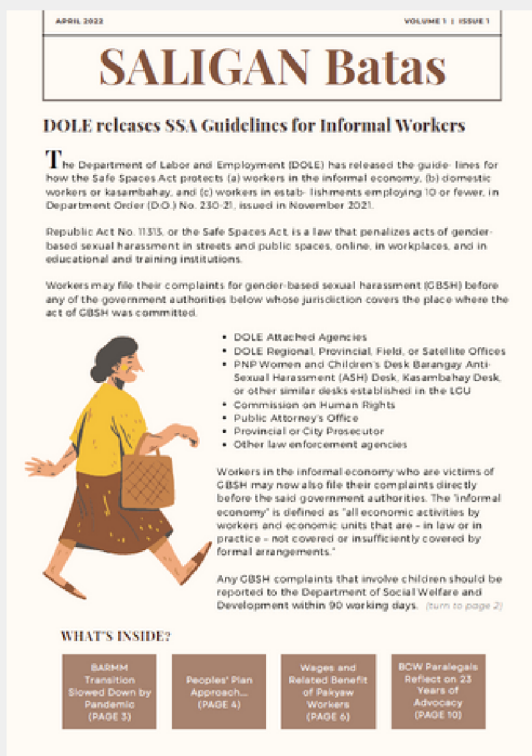


SALIGAN, in partnership with PILIPINA, conducted legal jamming with family members of Women in Conflict with the Law in Payatas, Quezon City on April 20, 2022. SALIGAN Paralegals assisted SALIGAN lawyers during the consultation sessions.

Two Manuals were published online: (1) *Manwal Para sa Maralitang Tagalungsod*; and (2) *The Paralegal Manual on the Elimination of Violence and Discrimination Against Women*. In addition, the following primers were also published: (1) *Katarungang Pambarangay*; (2) *Labor Laws for NGO Workers*; (3) *Family Code*; and (4) *Praymer sa Pagtatag ng VAW Desk sa Barangay*. These Manuals and Primers complement SALIGAN's legal empowerment programs and are downloadable for free from SALIGAN's website.



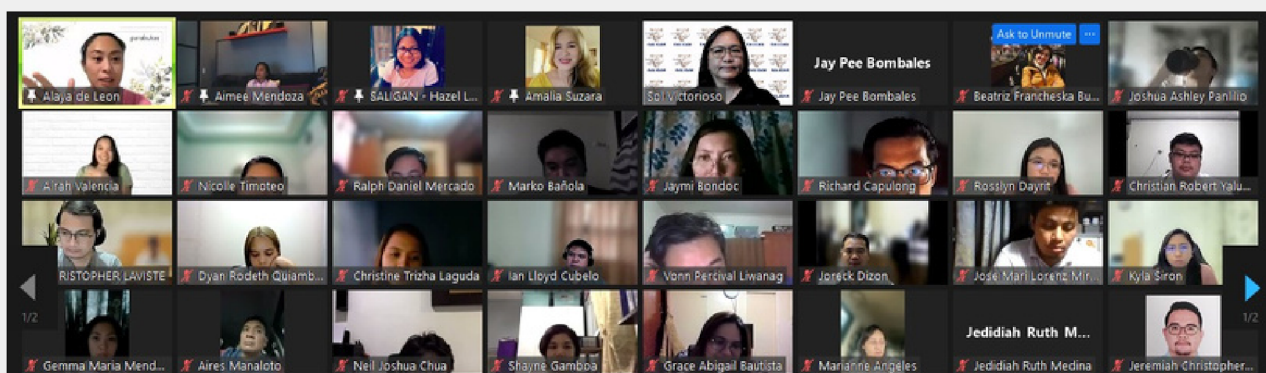
Praymer sa Pagtatag ng VAW Desk sa Barangay. The illustration shows the process in handling anti-violence against women and their children's cases from the barangay level to the courts.



SALIGAN also launched *SALIGAN Batas*, a quarterly publication on developments in law, legal processes, and jurisprudence affecting the marginalized, disadvantaged and exploited sectors. It also presents discourse on SALIGAN’s advocacies, and features the work of SALIGAN’s graduate paralegals. The three issues of *SALIGAN Batas* published in 2022 are also free to download in SALIGAN’s website.

SALIGAN provided expertise for the *Women, Business and Law 2023* of the World Bank and the *Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2023* of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

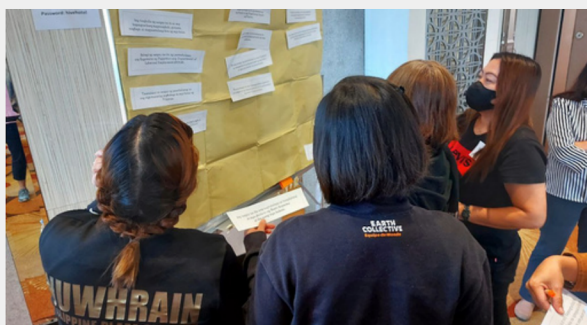
Close to 500 law students participated in two online alternative lawyering fora conducted in partnership with the Angeles University Foundation in Pampanga, and the Rizal Memorial Colleges (RMC) in Davao City. The online forum with RMC was attended by students from other schools in Mindanao, such as the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), the University of Mindanao (UM), Jose Maria Colleges (JMC), Cor Jesu College, the University of the Philippines (UP), and the Ateneo de Davao University (ADDU). Four law students completed SALIGAN’s 8-week summer internship program. Although their exposure was still limited due to the risks of COVID-19, the interns were able to undergo a session on alternative lawyering, SALIGAN’s programs, and issues confronting the MDEs. The interns were able to participate in a number of advocacy meetings, training sessions, legal consultations, and research. In partnership with the Ateneo Human Rights Center, SALIGAN hosted 3 students who underwent the AHRC internship program during the students’ semestral break.



Law students of the Angeles University Foundation participated in the Alternative Lawyering Forum on April 2, 2022.

Increased awareness of law and legal processes

SALIGAN commenced the formation of three groups of paralegals implemented by each of SALIGAN's branch offices. The Paralegal Formation Program for Women Workers in the Greater Metro Manila Area (GMMA), a first of its kind, aims to empower women union members to take a more active role in leadership and enable gender-sensitive and gender-responsive workplaces. The 15 women pioneering this program are members of the National Union of Workers in Hotels, Restaurants and Allied Industries (NUWHRAIN), Sentro ng Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO), and INDUSTRIALL. 10 workers from Tenpoint Manufacturing Corporation Employees Union (TMCEU) and 14 workers from Yellow Bus Line Employees Union (YLBEU) [HL2] participated in the Lakas ng Manggagawang Paralegal (LAMPARA) Program in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region in Mindanao. These workers represent two main industries: manufacturing and transport, and play a crucial role in pushing for the rights of workers in the region. In Bicol, 17 representatives of civil society organizations participate in the formation of paralegals aimed at enhancing CSO engagement in local governance.



Fifteen women workers in the hotel and allied industries and in the textile industry are currently participating in the Paralegal Formation Program.

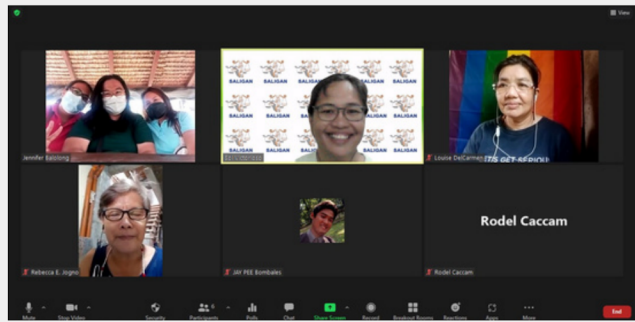


Seventeen graduate paralegals in the Bicol region, representing women, farmers, the urban poor, indigenous peoples, children, and environmental advocates, are currently participating in the intensified paralegal formation program on civil society participation in local governance.



Members of Tenpoint Manufacturing Corporation Employees Union (TMCEU) and Yellow Bus Line Employees Union (YLBEU) are participating in the Lakas ng Manggagawang Paralegal (LAMPARA) Program.

SALIGAN continued its legal clinic and monitoring conferences among its graduate-paralegals, namely: (1) the housing rights paralegals from the Greater Metro Manila Area; (2) the IP-Paralegals of CARAGA; (3) the HR responders from GMMA, Bicol region, and Davao City; (4) the community responders to cases of WICLs in Quezon City and Davao City; (5) the BCW-Paralegals of Naga City; (6) the Banasi Farmers-Paralegals; and (7) the paralegals from the Naga City Urban Poor Federation (NCUPFI). The graduate-paralegals were engaged in several activities like learning sessions, legal jamming sessions, and advocacy.



The graduate paralegals of from Tanay, Naic and Pasay City gave updates on their advocacy plans to address housing concerns in their communities.



Graduates of the Stop VAW Paralegal Formation Program became the Human Rights Responders. They discussed the status of informal settler families in Parañaque City who were being evicted in the midst of the pandemic.



IP-Paralegals in CARAGA developed an advocacy agenda that would address key issues for the IP sector.



Strategizing session with Banasi famrer-paralegals.



Community responders of selected barangays in Quezon City gave updates on the case studies of the Women in Conflict with the Law.



A learning session on gender sensitivity and mechanisms to address gender-based violence (GBV) in Mobo, Masbate was conducted to strengthen the responses of the barangay officials against GBV. The activity was attended by the punong barangays, VAW desk officers, and barangay health workers.



Discussion on housing-related laws and advocating for housing rights in the local government unit of Muntinlupa, in partnership with TAMPEI.

31 legal literacy sessions were conducted by SALIGAN, reaching about 1,760 individuals, across the country, in partnership with government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. These sessions centered around laws, legal processes and issues confronting the marginalized, disadvantaged and exploited sectors.



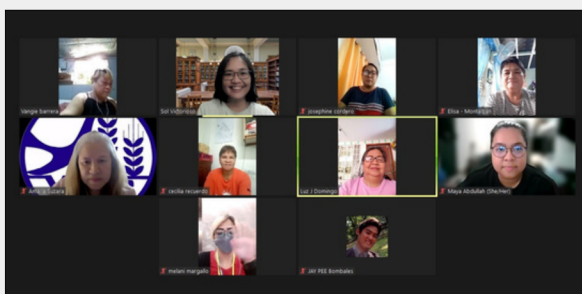
Representatives from various civil society organizations in Mindanao are participating in a series of learning sessions that would strengthen their engagement with LGUs, in partnership with DKA Austria.

In addition, 28 individuals completed a series of learning sessions in a specialized program for representatives of civil society organizations in the Mindanao region, including BARMM. They were able to formulate advocacy plans towards enhanced participation in local governance. The implementation of these advocacy plans will be monitored through continuous strategizing sessions.

Participation in governance

National advocacy teams on housing and women continue to work towards their agenda. SALIGAN spearheaded the drafting, in coordination with the Philippine Action for Community-led Shelter Initiatives, Inc. (PACCSI) and the Housing Rights Advocacy Team (HRAT), of the proposed policy on People's Plan Approach to the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD). The groups collaborated and organized the Kapangyarihan ng Laylayan: 30 taon ng UDHA, an online forum which presented the gains and challenges in the implementation of Republic Act No. 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act. The HRAT continued its advocacy with Congress on the Just and Humane Resettlement (JAHRA) and Least Displacement of ISFs (LISA).

SALIGAN also provided its expertise in the House of Representatives (HOR) Technical Working Group (TWG) working on the National Housing Authority (NHA) Charter.



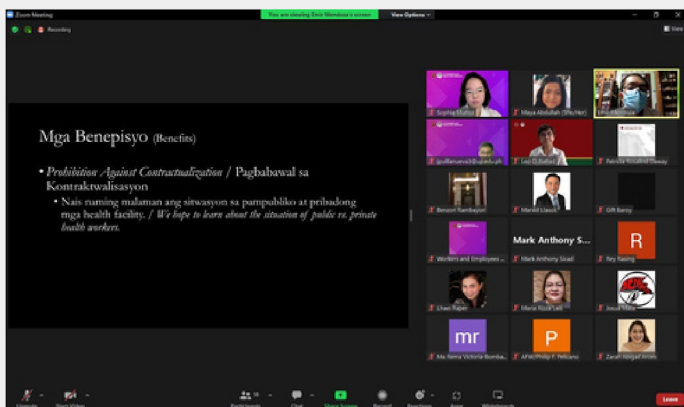
Quarterly Meeting of the Women Advocacy Team

SALIGAN's paralegals and the Women's Rights Advocacy Team submitted its position paper and participated in a series of discussions for the passage of Republic Act No. 11648 increasing the minimum age for statutory rape. SALIGAN also proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 11313 or the Safe Spaces Act (SSA). In partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women, SALIGAN commenced review of jurisprudence in relation to Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act (AWA). SALIGAN, in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government – National Barangay Operations Office (DILG-NBOO) and the Justice Sector Reform Programme: Governance in Justice (GOJUST), reviewed and updated the module on strengthening the capacities of local government units in handling violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GBV) cases. The module will be rolled out in 2023, with Calamba City and Quezon City as pilot areas.

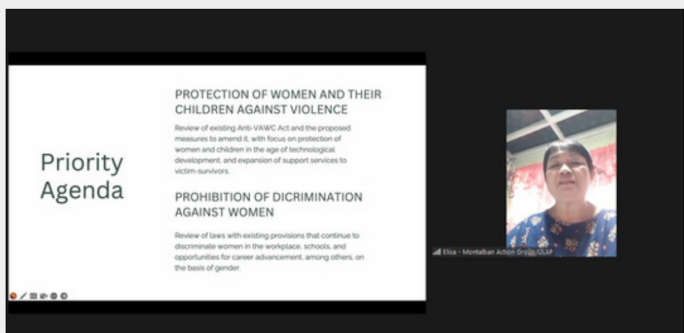
SALIGAN, in partnership with Save the Children Philippines (SCP), and in consultation with children and civil society organizations, drafted a template for Children’s Participation Ordinance. SALIGAN collaborated with the DILG-NBOO, with the support of the GOJUST Program, in formulating a module that would enable barangays to formulate their respective Comprehensive Local Juvenile Intervention Plans (CLJIPs) and Child-Rights Based Ordinances. The module will be rolled-out in 2023 with Naga City as the pilot area.



SALIGAN participated in the deliberation seeking ratification of ILO Convention 190.



SALIGAN participated in the discussion of the proposed policy prohibiting contractualization.



Review of the existing Anti-VAWC Act and Prohibition of Discrimination Against Women were identified as priority agenda by the Women Advocacy Team..

SALIGAN participated in a series of round table discussions on proposed policies on workers’ rights organized by the Workers and Employees Program (WEP) of the University of the Philippines Law Center, particularly on pandemic-related bills and the Magna Carta of Informal Workers. SALIGAN, with its partners and networks, also participated in congressional deliberations of the Committee on Labor, specifically on minimum wage. For migrant workers, SALIGAN researched on and conducted consultations with stakeholders for the development of Pre-Departure Orientation Module for Women Household Service Workers (WHSW) from the BARRM to Gulf States, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

SALIGAN finalized the Freedom of Association (FOA) Manual in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and an online learning platform on FOA will commence in 2023.

Local advocacy teams in the Bicol and Mindanao regions continued their engagements with local governments. The gender equality advocacy team in Naga City worked with policy-makers on the proposed Safe Spaces Ordinance. The group also worked on proposals to strengthen responses to VAW and addressing issues confronted by persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression and sexual characteristics (SOGIE-SC). SALIGAN strengthened its presence in the province of Masbate by working with stakeholders in the municipality of Mobo, Masbate for the enhancement of their mechanism to address GBV, in partnership with Oxfam Philippines. SALIGAN commenced partnership with the Good Neighbors International Philippines (GNIP) from Prieto Diaz in the province of Sorsogon for the review of the Children's Code and participation in Local Special Bodies (LSBs). Representatives from the Naga City People's Council (NCPC), Coalition for Bicol Development (CBD), and the Caritas Caceres Social Action Center, formulated the people's participation advocacy agenda which includes creating or activating people's councils in a number of local government units. SALIGAN facilitated a series of consultation sessions among farmers in Camarines Sur as part of a research project of the Alternative Law Groups, Inc. (ALG) on overcoming access to justice barriers through grassroots communities.



Agenda Building of the People Participation in Governance Advocacy Team attended by its members, the Coalition for Bicol Development, Caritas Caceres, Camsurnet, Naga City People's Council, and SALIGAN..



The Community Based Advocacy and Monitoring Group finalized the Mobo Anti-Gender-Based Violence Referral System and planned the institutionalization of the referral system.

In Mindanao, the environmental protection advocacy team formulated the Davao Environmental Agenda, while the indigenous peoples' advocacy team put local governance participation at the core of their work. Working with the YBLEU, SALIGAN drafted and supported the position to increase the minimum wage in Region 12, which was approved by the Regional Wages and Productivity Board (RWPB).

The agenda of the advocacy teams were discussed during SALIGAN's 35th anniversary forum, "Community-Based Advocacies Toward Structural Change."



Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen (third from right), Chairperson of the Chairperson of the SC Committee on Access to Justice/Underserved Areas, and Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) National Executive Director for Planning Atty. Gina H. Mirano-Jesena (second from right) pose with the panelists on the subject of the spectrum of legal assistance during the first day of the 2022 National Legal Aid Summit in Bacolod City in Bacolod City. The panelists are (from left): Atty. Efenita May M. Taqueban of The Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center; Atty. Marie Hazel E. Lavitoria of Sentrong Alternatibong Lingap Panligal; Atty. Kristine Jazz V. Tamayo of Rainbow Rights Philippines; Atty. Mary Claire A. Dimaisip of the Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaularan ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan; Prof. Theodore O. Te of the Free Legal Assistance Group and the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law. Source: sc.judiciary.gov.ph.

SALIGAN continued to engage in formal structures of governance. It is one of the representatives to the Inter-Agency Oversight Council on SSA (IAOCSSA). It is also the women sector representative to the Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Council of the National Capital Region (RTIPC-NCR). SALIGAN maintained its accreditation and participation in the local governance of Quezon City, Naga City, and Davao City. It represented the Naga City People’s Council in the Sangguniang Panlungsod committees on laws and human rights.

SALIGAN participated in the Legal Aid Summit “Reimagining the Art of Legal Empowerment: National Summit on Access to Justice through Cultivating Approaches on Legal Aid” on November 27-30, 2022 in Bacolod City. SALIGAN served a panelist on the session on legal assistance, specifically on housing and the urban poor.

SALIGAN is an active member of various CSO networks, such as the Alternative Law Groups, Inc. (ALG), the Partnership for Philippine Support Services, Inc. (PHILSSA) where a SALIGAN representative was elected Secretary, the NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR), the Philippine Misereor Partners, Inc. (PMPI) where a SALIGAN representative is the point-person for Davao region cluster, and the Naga City People’s Council (NCPC).



ETOC Members in Nuremberg, Germany, June 2022.

SALIGAN maintained its membership in the Extraterritorial Obligation Consortium (ETOC) and participated in the Biennial Conference in Nuremberg, Germany on June 16-19, 2022. During the conference, a representative from SALIGAN presented the Commission on Human Rights’ Report on the 7-year Climate Change Inquiry it conducted. SALIGAN also reviewed and signed the statement: ETO Consortium urges States to actively negotiate and promptly adopt a “Legally binding instrument on TNCs and Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights,” including clear regulations on corporate accountability beyond borders and respect for UN Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9. SALIGAN’s partnership with NAMATI Legal Empowerment Network continued. SALIGAN was a panelist in the working session on “Gender Justice on the Frontlines: Grassroots and Institutional Responses to GBV” during the World Justice Forum 2022 on May 30-June 3, 2022. In the said session, the panelist from SALIGAN “encouraged institutions to prioritize the practical and strategic needs of women and girls in pandemic response as primary and not secondary to relief and livelihood”.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Misereor continues its support to SALIGAN’s institutional programs for three years (2022-2024) with the project: Legal Empowerment and Assistance Program to the Marginalized, Disadvantaged and Exploited Sectors (LEAP MDEs). SALIGAN also implemented special projects supported by the Save the Children Philippines (SCP), DKA Austria, the Governance in Justice Program (GOJUST) of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Oxfam Philippines, and other organizations. SALIGAN is engaged as expert consultants of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Philippine Commission for Women (PCW), and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), among others.



SALIGAN Team 2022

(Left to right): Cel, Tanya, Danica, Hazel, JC, Lani, Olyn, Maya, Marc, Jay Pee, Shyla, Sol, and Dave

CAPACITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

SALIGAN’s programs and strategies were implemented by 5 lawyers and 4 legal staff with the support of its 4 finance and administrative staff. In 2022, SALIGAN further enhanced its internal policies and adopted the following: (1) Child Rights Programming; (2) Occupational Safety and Health; (3) Policy Against Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery; (4) Policy Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; (5) Menopause and Andropause Policy; and (6) Provisional Feedback Mechanism. SALIGAN will extend its values and standards to organizations and individuals it will engage with. SALIGAN commenced development...



SALIGAN's Board of Trustees

Nandy Aldaba (President), Tony Salvador (Vice-President), Aya de Leon (Treasurer), Marlon Manuel, and Aubrey Albo. SALIGAN's Executive Director, Hazel Lavitoria, serves as the Secretary. Other members of SALIGAN's Management Team are Olyn Ramos (Finance/Admin Coordinator), Sol Victorioso (Manila Coordinator), Dave Abogado (Bicol Coordinator), and Marc Majadas (Mindanao Coordinator).

...of its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Manual, and the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS).

Moving on from 2022...

As SALIGAN continues its work towards genuine social change, its strategic plan for 2023-2025 maintains its overall goal towards an improved legal environment that addresses the needs of the MDEs, with the following specific objectives:

1. Workers have advanced their right to security of tenure and freedom of association;
2. Women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ persons have promoted gender equality;
3. Children and their communities have promoted meaningful child participation;
4. MDEs have enhanced access to law and legal processes; and
5. SALIGAN has developed and preserved its organizational competencies, integrity, and sustainability.



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